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Third Committee
Agenda item 108
International drug control

Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 1999/29, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction". The text of the draft resolution is reproduced below.

The General Assembly

Adopts the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction

Preamble

1. In the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[1] Member States:

(a) Recognized that demand reduction was an indispensable pillar in the global approach to countering the world drug problem and committed themselves:

(i) To introducing into their national programmes and strategies the provisions set out in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction;[2]

[1] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.
[2] General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.

99-27358 (E) 081099

(ii) To working closely with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to develop action-oriented strategies to assist in the implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction;

(iii) To establishing the year 2003 as a target date for new or enhanced drug demand reduction strategies and programmes set up in close collaboration with public health, social welfare and law enforcement authorities;

(iv) To achieving significant and measurable results in the field of demand reduction by 2008;

(b) Called upon all States to report biennially to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on their efforts to meet the above-mentioned goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008.

2. The present Action Plan is offered as guidance to Member States in implementing the above-mentioned commitments. Organizations of the United Nations system,[3] other international organizations, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations are invited to provide support to Member States in implementing the Action Plan, according to their available resources, specific mandates and the different roles that they are to play in achieving the goals set out in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.

3. The Action Plan reflects the emphasis in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction on the need for a comprehensive and balanced approach involving demand reduction and supply reduction, each reinforcing the other, together with the appropriate application of the principle of shared responsibility. It stresses the need for services responsible for prevention, including law enforcement agencies, to transmit the same message and use similar language.

4. The Action Plan is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, human rights and fundamental freedoms and the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.[4] It allows for flexible approaches to reflect social, cultural, religious and political differences, and it acknowledges that efforts to reduce illicit drug demand are at different levels of implementation in different countries.

5. The Action Plan recognizes that progress to reduce the demand for illicit drugs should be seen in the context of the need for programmes to reduce the demand for substances of abuse. Such programmes should be integrated to promote cooperation between all concerned, should include a wide variety of appropriate interventions, should promote health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities, and should reduce the adverse consequences of drug abuse for the individual and for society as a whole.

6. The Action Plan focuses on the need to design demand reduction campaigns and programmes to meet the needs of the population in general, as well as those of specific population groups, taking into account differences in gender, culture and education and

[3] This may include, but is not restricted to, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, as well as international financial institutions such as the World Bank.

[4] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

paying special attention to youth.[5] Demand reduction efforts should be developed with the participation of target groups, giving special attention to a gender perspective.

I. The commitment

7. *Objective 1*. To apply the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction in order to achieve significant and measurable results in reducing the demand for drugs by the year 2008 and to report on those results to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. A greater compliance with the spirit and principles of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, and achieving significant and measurable results in reducing the demand for drugs;

(b) *Outputs*. Biennial reports by each country on the efforts to implement the Declaration and reduce the demand for drugs and on the results achieved;

(c) *National action*. Applying the Declaration and preparing a biennial report containing measurable results for submission to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme to collate national reports and report on its findings to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

8. *Objective 2*. To secure, at the highest political level possible, a long-term commitment to the implementation of a national strategy for reducing illicit drug demand and to establish a mechanism for ensuring full coordination and participation of the relevant authorities and sectors of society. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. Higher priority for and long-term commitment to demand reduction and effective coordination between relevant sectors of society;

(b) *Outputs*. A mechanism for ensuring ongoing commitment to the strategy through: (i) fostering linkages and integration with other relevant plans and programmes, for instance, those concerning health, including public health issues such as those relating to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and hepatitis C, as well as education, housing, employment, social exclusion, law enforcement and crime prevention; (ii) encouraging the participation of all sectors of society; and (iii) providing for the assessment and reporting of results and refinement of the strategy as necessary;

(c) *National action*. Consultation and cooperation with potential partners in developing multisectoral plans and obtaining long-term commitments coordinated by the appropriate national authorities;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to provide appropriate assistance in establishing coordination mechanisms for those requesting it.

9. *Objective 3*. To develop and implement, by the year 2003, national strategies fully incorporating the guiding principles set out in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. An integrated, balanced, efficient and effective national strategy for addressing drug issues, with major emphasis on demand reduction;

[5] As expressed, for example, in "The vision from Banff", drawn up by the Youth Vision Jeunesse Drug Abuse Prevention Forum held in Banff, Canada, from 14 to 18 April 1998.

(b) *Outputs*. A strategy document tailored to national needs, characteristics and cultures, specifying the role of agencies involved, the time-frame for activities and the goals;

(c) *National action*. This would include: (i) developing a national strategy by assessing the problem, defining the needs and resources, establishing priorities and goals, setting time-frames for specific activities and results and determining the roles of the agencies concerned; (ii) implementing the strategy through the development of a national action plan with a multisectoral approach, endorsed by an appropriate national body; and (iii) developing a framework for assessing and reporting results and reporting on the strategy and its implementation to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to provide guidance and assistance to those requesting it and to set up a database on national drug control strategies.

II. Assessing the problem

10. *Objective 4*. To assess the causes and consequences of the misuse of all substances in each country and to communicate those causes and consequences to policy makers, planners and the general public in order to develop practical measures; to establish a national system to monitor drug problems and trends and to record and evaluate intervention programmes and their impact on a regular basis, using national indicators; and, taking into account existing national and regional data systems for monitoring drug problems and trends, as well as the goals and targets established for the years 2003 and 2008 in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, to work towards establishing a core set of regionally and internationally recognized indicators. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. Programmes and policies that are based on precise and timely evidence on the causes and consequences of drug abuse;

(b) *Outputs*. They would include: (i) a regular national report on the current drug situation and trends; and (ii) a periodic assessment of the health, social and economic costs of drug abuse and the benefits associated with different measures and actions, on both the demand and the supply side;

(c) *National action*. This would include: (i) establishing a national system for data collection and analysis of drug abuse; (ii) undertaking periodic assessments of the costs to society of drug abuse, and of the medium- and long-term benefits to society if the problem is reduced; and (iii) using the information for drug policy and programme development;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations: (i) to provide advice and technical assistance to countries requesting it on the establishment of national systems for monitoring the drug abuse problem, including regionally and internationally recognized core indicators; and (ii) to promote the development of methodologies for assessing the costs and consequences of drug abuse, and for undertaking cost benefit analyses of various measures and actions.

11. *Objective 5*. To develop research programmes at the national and regional levels in scientific fields concerning drug demand reduction and to widely disseminate the results so that strategies for reducing illicit drug demand may be elaborated on a solid scientific basis. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. Improved drug demand reduction strategies based on scientific evidence;

(b) *Outputs*. Programmes for research on issues related to drug demand reduction;

(c) *National action*. Identifying research needs, developing research programmes, mobilizing resources required and promoting the application of research findings;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to encourage research into a wide range of drug demand reduction issues and the dissemination and application of research findings.

III. Tackling the problem

12. *Objective 6*. To identify and develop programmes for reducing illicit drug demand in a wide variety of health and social contexts and to encourage collaboration among those programmes, which should cover all areas of drug abuse prevention, ranging from discouraging the initial use of illicit drugs to reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse, and should include continuing education, not only for all educational levels, beginning at an early age, but also in the workplace, the family and the community; and to develop programmes to make the public aware of the problem of drug abuse and of the full continuum of risks involved in such abuse and to provide information on and services for early intervention, counselling, treatment, rehabilitation, relapse prevention, aftercare and social reintegration to those in need. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. Reduction of drug abuse and related health and social consequences;

(b) *Outputs*. Easily accessible drug demand reduction programmes, integrated into broader health and social programmes, covering where possible the full spectrum of services, including reducing the adverse health and social consequences of drug abuse;

(c) *National action*. Developing and implementing specific demand reduction activities at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of prevention that meet the needs of various target groups and which are integrated into the health, education and other related sectors;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to provide guidance and assistance to those requesting it and to facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies.

IV. Forging partnerships

13. *Objective 7*. To identify how different national and local institutions and organizations may contribute to efforts to reduce illicit drug demand, and to promote the linking of those institutions and organizations. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. More efficient utilization of resources and local ownership of programmes;

(b) *Outputs*. Identification of the roles of national and local institutions and organizations and of networking arrangements between them with a view to improving their contribution to, and the effectiveness of, national strategies;

(c) *National action*. This would include: (i) identifying drug demand reduction programmes run by various agencies, governmental and non-governmental, and defining their role in the national strategy; and (ii) promoting and reinforcing collaboration and networking among them;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to compile a collection of examples of collaborative and cooperative arrangements that are in place in Member States to promote and reinforce networking, and to facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies.

V. Focusing on special needs

14. *Objective 8*. To enhance the quality of programmes for reducing illicit drug demand, especially in terms of their relevance to population groups, taking into account their cultural diversity and specific needs, such as gender, age and socially, culturally and geographically marginalized groups. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. Improvement in the quality and relevance of services offered;

(b) *Outputs*. Guidelines for programmes and services, taking into consideration cultural diversity and specific needs;

(c) *National action*. This would include: (i) establishing guidelines for the development and implementation of programmes; and (ii) monitoring and evaluating programmes according to established guidelines in order to improve programme quality and increase cost effectiveness;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to promote the development of guidelines and to facilitate the sharing of information among Member States.

15. *Objective 9*. To target the particular needs of groups most at risk of abusing drugs, through the development, in cooperation with those groups, of specially designed communication strategies and effective, relevant and accessible programmes. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. Reduction of drug abuse among groups at risk and a reduction in the adverse health and social consequences of drug abuse;

(b) *Outputs*. Development of programmes and communication strategies for specific risk groups, particularly youth;

(c) *National action*. This would include: (i) identifying risk factors and groups at risk and developing programmes and communication strategies in cooperation with such groups to address their specific needs; and (ii) establishing and supporting mechanisms, including networks that facilitate the participation of young people in the design and implementation of programmes intended for them;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations: (i) to promote the participation of target groups in the design of projects and facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies; and (ii) to facilitate the creation of an international network promoting regular contact among youth involved in demand reduction activities and allowing them to stay informed and learn from one another.

16. *Objective 10*. To provide prevention, education, treatment or rehabilitation services to offenders who misuse drugs, whether in prison or in the community, as an addition to or, where appropriate and consistent with the national laws and policies of Member States, as an alternative to punishment or conviction; and to provide, in particular, drug-abusing

offenders held in prison with services to enable them to overcome their dependence and to facilitate their reintegration in the community. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. A reduction of drug abuse among offenders and, where appropriate, positive social integration or reintegration;

(b) *Outputs*. Comprehensive drug prevention, education, treatment, rehabilitation and social integration programmes for offenders;

(c) *National action*. Cooperation among institutions and organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, offering health, social, justice, correctional, vocational training and employment services, in order to provide preventive care, education, treatment and rehabilitation for offenders and, where appropriate, programmes to enable their integration into the community;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations, to facilitate sharing of information on best strategies.

VI. Sending the right message

17. *Objective 11*. To undertake public information campaigns aimed at the population in general to promote health, raise awareness in society and improve people's understanding of the drug problem in the community and of the need to curb that problem; to evaluate those campaigns by establishing a follow-up system to determine their impact; and to carry out research into the requirements of particular population groups, such as parents, teachers, community leaders and drug users, with regard to information on drugs and services. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. Enhanced knowledge and awareness of the drug problem, of the need to take action, and of the available support mechanisms;

(b) *Outputs*. Appropriately targeted public information campaigns based on knowledge acquired from research to promote greater awareness of the drug problem and to provide information on available resources and services;

(c) *National action*. Assessing needs and including and evaluating public information activities as part of national drug strategies;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies.

18. *Objective 12*. To develop information campaigns that are relevant and precise so that they take into account the social and cultural characteristics of the target population: That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. Increased knowledge and awareness among drug users and specific social and cultural groups about drugs and the adverse health and social consequences of drug use, as well as the availability of services;

(b) *Outputs*. Effective and culturally appropriate information campaigns that encourage and help drug users to reduce their involvement with drugs and prevent or reduce adverse health and social problems and inform them about available services;

(c) *National action*. Providing information on drugs and drug abuse and on how to obtain help for those most in need, particularly drug users. Information should be based on knowledge acquired from research and developed in collaboration with the target audience;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies.

19. *Objective 13*. To promote information, education and communication programmes for social mediators, for example, political, religious, educational, cultural, business and union leaders, peer educators, and representatives of non-governmental organizations and the media worldwide, so that they may convey appropriate and accurate messages about drug abuse. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. Enhanced knowledge and skills among social mediators in conveying information about drug abuse;

(b) *Outputs*. Programmes and other activities to inform and educate social mediators and to develop their communication skills;

(c) *National action*. Developing training strategies for social mediators;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to facilitate the sharing of information on best strategies in this field.

VII. Building on experience

20. *Objective 14*. To train planners and practitioners of governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and others within the community on a permanent basis in all aspects of demand reduction activities and strategic programming by identifying local, national, subregional and regional human resources and using their experience in the design of programmes in order to guarantee their continuity and to create and strengthen regional, subregional, national and local training and technical resource networks; and, with the possible assistance of regional and international organizations, to facilitate the exchange of experiences and expertise by encouraging States to include demand reduction personnel from other States in training programmes that they have developed. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. Improved knowledge and skills of practitioners in demand reduction, facilitating the development of more efficient, effective and sustainable services;

(b) *Outputs*. Strategies for the development and expansion of the pool of technical expertise supporting planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of national demand reduction programmes;

(c) *National action*. This would include: (i) identifying those involved in planning and implementing programmes, from planners to practitioners and institutions and individuals involved with service delivery, in order to enhance their capacity to respond to the problem; (ii) supporting the design and implementation of training programmes, reviewed and updated on a regular basis, to form part of a continuing education programme for trainers; and (iii) designing and instituting training programmes for the various sectors involved in demand reduction programmes;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations: (i) to facilitate sharing of information on best strategies, (ii) to facilitate the development of guidelines on the development of curricula and training programmes, including distance learning, and assistance for those requesting it; and (iii) to facilitate the intercountry exchange of experts for training purposes and the participation of foreign personnel in national training programmes developed by Member States.

21. *Objective 15*. To evaluate strategies and activities for reducing illicit drug demand and to develop mechanisms for intercountry, regional and interregional advocacy coordination, cooperation and collaboration in order to identify, share and expand best practices and effective activities in the development and implementation of drug demand reduction programmes. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. Demand reduction programmes that are soundly based on validated experience and evidence;

(b) *Outputs*. They would include: (i) domestic evaluation results of strategies and activities and mechanisms for cooperation and data sharing; and (ii) mechanisms for facilitating the exchange of evaluation results and other data assessing the effectiveness of strategies and activities at the domestic, regional and interregional levels;

(c) *National action*. This would include: (i) monitoring and evaluating demand reduction strategies and activities and utilizing the results to inform and improve national plans; and (ii) participating in coordinating mechanisms for intercountry, regional and international exchange of information;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to facilitate the exchange of information by establishing coordination mechanisms.

22. *Objective 16*. To create an international system of information on illicit drug demand reduction by linking existing databases managed by international, regional and national organizations in order to provide a network of information on knowledge and experiences that, to the extent possible, would use the above-mentioned core set of regionally and internationally recognized indicators and to enable comparisons of national experiences to be made. That would entail the following:

(a) *Impact*. Improved access to information, experiences and practices to facilitate the better design of programmes and policies;

(b) *Outputs*. National, regional and international mechanisms allowing easy access to databases and networks for the exchange of knowledge and experience of demand reduction;

(c) *National action*. Establishing and maintaining databases and facilitating linkages for international networking;

(d) *International and regional action*. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant international and regional organizations to participate in the creation of an international mechanism by facilitating networking and linkages between databases.

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Fifty-fourth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 116 (a)
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Finland: draft resolution

Question of the death penalty

The General Assembly,

Recalling article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] which affirms the right of everyone to life, article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] and articles 6 and 37 (a) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[3]

Recalling also its resolutions 2857 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 and 32/61 of 8 December 1977 on capital punishment, as well as resolution 44/128 of 15 December 1989, in which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty,

Welcoming Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/61 of 28 April 1999,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights,[4]

Deeply concerned that several countries impose the death penalty in disregard of the limitations provided for in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and concerned also that several countries do not take into account the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, set out in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50 of 25 May 1984,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[4] A/54/277.

99-29167 (E) 081099

Convinced that abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and to the progressive development of human rights,

Welcoming the fact that many countries are applying, whether de facto or *de jure*, a moratorium on executions,

Commending those countries which have recently abolished the death penalty,

1. *Calls upon* all States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that have not yet done so to consider acceding to or ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;

2. *Urges* all States that still maintain the death penalty:

(a) To comply fully with their obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as with other international obligations such as those under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations;

(b) To observe the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, set out in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50;

(c) To ensure that no reservations under article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights are contrary to the object and purpose of the Covenant;

3. *Calls upon* all States that still maintain the death penalty:

(a) Progressively to restrict the number of offences for which the death penalty may be imposed;

(b) To establish a moratorium on executions, with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty;

(c) To make available to the public information with regard to the imposition of the death penalty;

4. *Decides* to continue to consider this matter.

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Third Committee
Agenda item 106
Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Bangladesh, Canada, Japan, Monaco and the Philippines: draft resolution

Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[2] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[3] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4]

Recalling its resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[5] 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 49/153 of 23 December 1994, 50/144 of 21 December 1995 and 52/82 of 12 December 1997,

Reaffirming the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights[6] and its five-year review, the International Conference on Population and Development[7] and its five-year

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[4] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[5] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (iv).
[6] A/CONF.157/24.
[7] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

99-29346 (E) 111099

review, the World Summit for Social Development,[8] the Fourth World Conference on Women[9] and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)[10] as they pertain to the promotion of the rights and well-being of disabled persons,

Also recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1997/19 of 21 July 1997 on equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities, 1997/20 of 21 July 1997 on children with disabilities and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/31 of 17 April 1998 on the human rights of persons with disabilities,

Mindful of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies to promote the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in economic, social, cultural and political life, on the basis of equality, to achieve a "society for all",

Concerned, however, that improvement of disability awareness and sensitivity to disability issues have not been significant enough to impact the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide,

Recognizing the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive policies, programme planning and evaluation and the need for further development of practical statistical methodology for data collection and compilation on populations with disabilities,

Realizing that information technology provides new possibilities for improving accessibility for disabled persons and for facilitating their full participation and equality, and welcoming the initiatives of the United Nations to promote information technology as a means of achieving the universal goal of a "society for all",

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and welcomes the initiatives of Governments, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations for the further equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities;

2. *Encourages* Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to take concrete measures for the further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities by focusing on accessibility, social services and safety nets, and training and employment in the design and implementation of strategies, policies and programmes to promote a more inclusive society;

3. *Urges* Governments to cooperate with the United Nations Statistics Division in the continued development of global statistics and indicators on disability, and encourages them to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Division to build national capacities for national data collection systems, as needed;

4. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to engage in public information campaigns, by, with and for persons with disabilities, with a view to combating and overcoming discrimination against persons with disabilities and to further their full and effective participation in society;

5. *Urges* relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including all human rights treaty bodies, the regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-

[8] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13.

[10] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6).

governmental organizations and institutions, to work closely with the United Nations programme on disabled persons in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities by sharing experiences, findings and recommendations on persons with disabilities;

6. *Further urges* Governments and the United Nations system to give special attention to the rights, needs, and welfare of children with disabilities and their families in the development of policies and programmes;

7. *Encourages* Governments, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability with a view to fully implementing the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to support activities to build national capacities, with emphasis on priorities identified in resolution 52/82 of 12 December 1997;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue supporting initiatives of relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as those of regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and the further implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and in their efforts to mainstream persons with disabilities in development cooperation, both as beneficiaries and decision makers;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in improving the accessibility of the United Nations for persons with disabilities, and urges him to continue implementing plans to provide a barrier-free environment, as well as information in accessible format and communication services;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-ninth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Third Committee
Agenda item 106
Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: revised draft resolution

Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 49/153 of 23 December 1994, 50/144 of 21 December 1995 and 52/82 of 12 December 1997,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1997/19 of 21 July 1997 on equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities and 1997/20 of 21 July 1997 on children with disabilities and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/31 of 17 April 1998 on the human rights of persons with disabilities,[1]

Recalling further the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[3]

Reaffirming the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their respective follow-up reviews, in particular as they pertain to the promotion of the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities,

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[3] Resolution 44/25, annex.

99-30531 (E) 211099

Noting with appreciation the important contributions of subregional, regional and international seminars and conferences related to persons with disabilities, such as the Fifth World Assembly of Disabled People's International, held in Mexico City from 1 to 7 December 1998, on the theme "Towards an inclusive twenty-first century",

Expressing grave concern that situations of armed conflict have especially devastating consequences for the human rights of persons with disabilities,

Mindful of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies to promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in economic, social, cultural and political life, on the basis of equality, to achieve a society for all,

Concerned that improvement of disability awareness and sensitivity to disability issues have not been significant enough to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide,

Recognizing the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive policies, programme planning and evaluation and the need for further development of practical statistical methodology for data collection and compilation on populations with disabilities,

Realizing that technology, in particular information technology, provides new possibilities for improving accessibility and employment by persons with disabilities and for facilitating their full participation and equality, and welcoming the initiatives of the United Nations to promote information technology as a means of achieving the universal goal of a society for all,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the initiatives of Governments, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations for the further equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable work undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development during his second mandate for the period 1997-2000;

4. *Encourages* Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to take concrete measures for the further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities by focusing on accessibility, health, social services, including training and rehabilitation, safety nets, employment and sustainable livelihoods, in the design and implementation of strategies, policies and programmes to promote a more inclusive society;

5. *Calls upon* Governments to undertake all necessary measures to advance beyond the adoption of national plans for people with disabilities through, *inter alia*, the creation or reinforcement of arrangements for the promotion and awareness of disability issues and the allocation of sufficient resources for the full implementation of existing plans and initiatives and emphasizes the importance of supporting national efforts through international cooperation in this regard;

6. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to take practical actions, including public information campaigns, by, with and for persons with disabilities, with a view to increasing disability awareness and sensitivity to disability issues and to combating and overcoming

[4] A/54/388 and Add.1.

discrimination against persons with disabilities and to further their full and effective participation in society;

7. *Encourages* Governments to continue their support to non-governmental organizations contributing to the fulfilment of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

8. *Also encourages* Governments to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of strategies and plans aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting education and enhancing employment;

9. *Urges* relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights treaty bodies, and the regional commissions, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations and institutions, to work closely with the United Nations programme on persons with disabilities in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, including activities at the field level, by sharing experiences, findings and recommendations on persons with disabilities;

10. *Urges* Governments to cooperate with the United Nations Statistics Division in the continued development of global statistics and indicators on disability, and encourages them to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Division to build national capacities for national data-collection systems, as needed;

11. *Urges* Governments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, to give special attention to the rights, needs and well-being of children with disabilities and their families in the development of policies and programmes;

12. *Encourages* Governments, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability with a view to fully implementing the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, including the work of the Special Rapporteur, and to support activities to build national capacities, with emphasis on priorities identified in General Assembly resolution 52/82 of 12 December 1997;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue supporting initiatives of relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as those of regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, for the promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities and the further implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and in their efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in technical cooperation activities, both as beneficiaries and as decision makers;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in his assessments of the implementation of the outcome of major United Nations conferences and summits to be considered at the forthcoming special sessions of the General Assembly, the contribution of these meetings to the promotion of the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in improving the accessibility of the United Nations for persons with disabilities, and urges him to continue implementing plans to provide a barrier-free environment, as well as information in accessible format and communication services;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session through the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-ninth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.